

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 31 AUGUST 2021

Education and Communities Committee

Tuesday 31 August 2021 at 1pm

Present: Provost Brennan, Councillors Clocherty, Curley, MacLeod, McCabe, C McEleny, McVey, Murphy, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson (for Education business only), Reverend D Burt, Church Representative, Ms A McMillan, Parent Representative and Ms P McEwan, Teacher Representative.

Chair: Councillor Clocherty presided.

In attendance: Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources, Head of Education, Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport, Interim Head of Legal Services, Interim Head of Property Services, Mr I Cameron (for Interim Service Director Corporate Services & Organisational Recovery), Ms L Wilkie (Education Services), Ms D Sweeney and Ms L Carrick (Legal Services), Service Manager Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety, and ICT Services Manager.

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Provost Brennan, Councillors Curley, MacLeod, McCabe, C McEleny, Murphy, and Quinn attending by video-conference.

The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Committee.

333 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

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Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Wilson, for Communities business only, and Ms F Gilpin, Church Representative.

Declarations of interest were intimated as follows:

Agenda Item 3 (Communities Performance Report – Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items) - Councillors Clocherty, MacLeod, and Quinn.

Agenda Item 5 (Communities Recovery Update and Anti-Poverty Initiatives) - Councillors Clocherty, Quinn and Robertson.

334 Communities Revenue & Capital Budget Report – Final Out Turn 2020/21 and 2021/22 Projected Out Turn at Period 3 to 30 June 2021

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There was submitted a report by the Interim Service Director Corporate Services & Organisational Recovery and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising Committee of the 2020/21 Communities Revenue Budget final out turn and the 2021/22 Revenue and Capital Budgets position as at Period 3 to 30 June 2021.

Decided:

- (1) that the final out turn for the 2020/21 Communities Revenue Budget be noted;
- (2) that the current projected underspend of £114,000 for the 2021/22 Communities

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Revenue Budget as at Period 3 to 30 June 2021 be noted;

(3) that the financial position of the specific capital projects detailed in Appendix 4 of the report and that the cost of the current Communities Capital Programme is being contained within existing budgets be noted; and

(4) that the virements of £184,800, as detailed in paragraph 9.1 and Appendix 6 of the report, be approved.

335 Communities Performance Report – Capital Programme Progress and Asset Related Items 335

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing performance information for the Communities part of the Education & Communities Committee, and (2) providing an update in respect of the status of the projects which form the Communities Capital Programme.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared a non-financial interest in this item as Members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure, and Councillor MacLeod declared a non-financial interest in this item as Non-Executive Director of Parklea Branching Out. All three Councillors formed the view that the nature of their interest and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision-making process.

Decided:

(1) that the current position of the 2021/24 Capital Programme be noted;

(2) that the progress on the following projects be noted (a) Lady Alice Bowling Club, (b) Rankin Park Bowling Club, (c) Indoor Sports Facility for Tennis, (d) Leisure Pitches Asset Management Plan/Lifecycle Fund, (e) Grieve Road Community Centre, (f) Wemyss Bay Community Centre, (g) Whinhill Golf Club Lifecycle Works, (h) Waterfront Leisure Centre Training Pool Moveable Floor, (i) Watt Institution Creativity Space, (j) Community Hub King George VI (k) Craigend Resource Centre, (l) The Inverclyde Shed Meet, Make + Share, (m) Parklea Branching Out, (n) Upper Gourock (Kirn Drive) Community Hall, (o) Gourock Park, (p) Ward 7 Community Facilities, and (q) Use of 3G pitches over the summer.

(3) that the changes made to (a) the Inverclyde Leisure Licence Agreement for Upper Gourock (Kirn Drive) Community Hall, (b) the Inverclyde Leisure Outdoor Facilities Management Agreement for Gourock Park (blaes pitch area), and (c) the Inverclyde Leisure Licence Agreement for the Paton Street property, all as detailed in paragraph 7 of the report, be approved.

Councillor Curley joined the meeting at this juncture.

336 Communities Update Report 336

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an update on the Communities aspects of the service.

Councillor Murphy left the meeting during discussion on this item for the remainder of the Communities business.

Decided: that the updates on (a) Cultural Services Annual Report, (b) Historic Links to Slavery Working Group, (c) Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme, (d) progress on review of School Crossing Patrols, (e) national free transport scheme for 5-22 year olds, (f) transfer of the Young Person Alcohol Team, and (g) Autism Strategy Ear Marked Reserve, be noted.

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337 Communities Recovery Update and Anti-Poverty Initiatives**337**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on community activities to date, including those considered as part of COVID-19 recovery planning, and (2) providing an update on progress on anti-poverty initiatives.

Councillors Clocherty and Quinn declared a non-financial interest in this item as Members of the Board of Inverclyde Leisure, and Councillors Clocherty and Robertson declared a non-financial interest in this item as Members of the Board of Greenock Arts Guild Ltd. All three Councillors formed the view that the nature of their interest and of the item of business did not preclude their continued presence in the meeting or their participation in the decision-making process.

Decided:

- (1) that the updates on (a) Summer of Fun 2021, (b) Duke of Edinburgh Award, (c) Culture Collective, (d) Sports and Physical Activity Strategy, (e) Meliora Outdoor Festival, (f) Small Grants and Waivers of Fees, (g) Inverclyde Leisure, and (h) The Beacon Arts Centre, in the report be noted; and
- (2) that the updates on anti-poverty initiatives (a) Community Listening Events, and (b) free sanitary products/Period Poverty be noted; and
- (3) that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to all staff involved in the creation and running of the Summer of Fun 2021 activities.

The Committee commenced consideration of the Education items of business at 4pm, with Councillor Wilson attending the Municipal Buildings and Reverend Burt, Ms McMillan and Ms McEwan joining the meeting by video-conference. Councillor Murphy rejoined the meeting at this juncture.

338 Education Revenue & Capital Budget Report – Final Out Turn 2020/21 and 2021/22 Projected Out Turn at Period 3 to 30 June 2021**338**

There was submitted a report by the Interim Service Director Corporate Services & Organisational Recovery and the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development advising the Committee of the 2020/21 Education Revenue Budget final out turn and the 2021/22 Revenue and Capital Budget positions as at Period 3 to 30 June 2021.

Decided:

- (1) that the final out turn for the 2020/21 Education Revenue Budget be noted;
- (2) that the projected underspend of £106,000 for the 2021/22 Education Revenue Budget as at Period 3 to 30 June 2021 be noted;
- (3) that the financial position of the specific capital projects detailed in Appendix 4 of the report and that the cost of the current Education Capital Programme is being contained within existing budgets be noted; and
- (4) that the virement of £88,550, as detailed in paragraph 9.1 and Appendix 6 of the report, be approved.

339 Education Performance Report – Capital Programme Progress**339**

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing performance information for the Education part of the Education & Communities Committee and (2) providing an update in respect of the status of the projects which form the Education Capital Programme.

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Decided:

(1) that the current position of the 2021/24 Capital Programme as detailed in the report be noted; and

(2) that the progress on (a) Gourock Primary School extension, (b) Hillend Children's Centre refurbishment, (c) former Kelly Street Children's Centre landscaping works (d) demolition of former Sacred Heart Primary School, (e) school artificial pitches, (f) general lifecycle works (g) Public Partnership Schools (PPP) lifecycle works, (h) Rainbow Family Centre extension, (i) Larkfield Children's Centre new build, and (j) Glenpark Early Learning Centre outdoor unit, be noted.

340 Education, Communities & Organisation Development Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan 2019/22 – End of Year 2 Progress Report and Annual Refresh 2021 340

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development (1) providing an update on the delivery of the improvement actions within the Education, Communities & Organisational Development (ECOD) Corporate Directorate Improvement Plan (CDIP), and (2) appending the refreshed ECOD CDIP, containing new or revised improvement actions, for approval.

Decided:

(1) that the progress which has been made in the delivery of the ECOD Improvement Plan in year 2, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted; and

(2) that the refreshed ECOD CDIP, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.

341 Education Services Improvement Plan 2021-22 341

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development appending the Education Services Improvement Plan for Session 2021-22 for approval.

Decided: that the Education Services Improvement Plan for 2021-22 be approved.

342 Education – COVID-19 Recovery Report 342

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an overview of progress towards recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Decided: that the updates on (a) Emergency Powers Report – request to utilise underspend in the Early Learning, (b) Emergency Powers Report – School Clothing Grant & Summer Hardship Payment, (c) ensuring that guidelines continue to be followed for a safe return to education, (d) recovery programmes in place to provide support to continue to close the poverty related attainment gap, (e) Recovery Funding, (f) ongoing support and challenge for schools, (g) Pupil Equity Funding (PEF), (h) Wellbeing Service, and (i) Curriculum and Digital Strategy, be noted.

343 Overview of National and Local Updates on Education 343

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development providing an overview of local and national updates on education matters.

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Decided:

- (1) that the updates on (a) Education response to the Local Development Plan, (b) SQA processes, (c) OECD report, (d) music tuition in schools, (e) funding for core curriculum, and (f) Early Learning and Childcare updates, be noted; and
- (2) that it be agreed that the registration charge for extra-curricular musical activities be removed from August 2021 pending confirmation from the Scottish Government of continued funding beyond August 2022.

344 Changes to School Holidays for Academic Year 2021/22 Taking into Consideration the Additional Bank Holiday for HM Platinum Jubilee 344

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development seeking Committee approval in principle to change the school holidays to accommodate the additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Following discussion, Councillor Clocherty moved that (1) the new school holiday dates, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, be agreed in principle subject to final confirmation at Policy & Resources Committee, and (2) officers write to the Scottish Government seeking permission for the change of the school year from 190 days to 189 days.

As an amendment, Councillor C McEleny moved that (1) the new school holiday dates, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, not be agreed in principle subject to final confirmation at Policy & Resources Committee, and (2) officers do not write to the Scottish Government seeking permission for the change of the school year from 190 days to 189 days.

Following a roll call vote, 4 Members, Councillors Curley, MacLeod, C McEleny and Quinn voted in favour of the amendment, and 10 Members, Provost Brennan, Councillors Clocherty, McCabe, McVey, Murphy, Robertson, Wilson, Reverend D Burt, Ms A McMillan and Ms P McEwan voted in favour of the motion, which was declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that the new school holiday dates, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, be agreed in principle subject to final confirmation at Policy & Resources Committee; and
- (2) that officers write to the Scottish Government seeking permission for the change of the school year from 190 days to 189 days.